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example, memory 22 could store the location of the AP 10, the local map, local services and other information, such that routine requests for information from the mobile unit, such as "Where am I" requests need not be serviced over the network, leaving more resources for other message traffic.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10, 14, 24, 25, and 37.

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:
a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;
a network;
a plurality of distributed wireless access points coupled to said network, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, one or more past transactions of the user of the mobile unit are identified, and said first wireless access point transmits information to said mobile unit that is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

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5. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in an airport.

6. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in a hotel.

7. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of information providers coupled to said network, wherein each of said information providers is operable to provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

8. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, further comprising:

one or more information providers connected to said network, wherein a first information provider of said one or more information providers is operable to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first information provider is operable to identify the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit and provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein said information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

11. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein said information is further dependent on a current known location of the mobile unit.

12. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region;

wherein said information is further dependent on a known location of said first wireless access point.

13. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

at least one information provider coupled to the network;

a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit is transmitted to the at least one information provider;

wherein the at least one information provider identifies past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, where the at least one information provider provides information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

18. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in an airport.

19. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in a hotel.

23. (Amended) A method of using wireless network access points (APs) to service mobile users who are in a vicinity of the APs, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) detecting the presence of a portable computing device in the vicinity of one of said APs, wherein the portable computing device is carried by a user, wherein said detecting is performed in a wireless manner;

(b) providing identification information indicating the user of the portable computing device in response to said detecting, wherein said providing is performed in a wireless manner;

(c) an information provider accessing past transaction information indicative of the past transactions of the user associated with said identification information;

(d) the information provider transmitting information to the portable computing device through said one of said APs, wherein a content of the information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the portable computing device, wherein said one of said APs provides the information to the portable computing device in a wireless fashion.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the plurality of APs are located in an airport.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the plurality of APs are located in a hotel.

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31. (Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising:
the portable computing device transmitting an inquiry requiring a response to said one of said APs;

wherein the information provider transmits said information in response to said inquiry.

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36. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of a wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

determining past transactions of a user of the mobile unit;

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transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit in response to said detecting, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

38. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of a wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

providing past transactions of a user of the mobile unit to a provider in response to said detecting;

the provider transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

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39. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

a network;

one or more service providers coupled to the network; and

a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect said mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point in proximity to said mobile unit, information is transmitted to a first service provider, said information including identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit;

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wherein said first service provider is operable to perform a service in response to said information, wherein said service is performed based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

41. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 39, wherein the service provider is a hotel, wherein, in response to said information, said hotel is operable to begin processing a room reservation to have a room ready for the user of the mobile unit.

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42. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:
a plurality of wireless access points operable to be coupled to a network and distributed in a region, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect a mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of the plurality of access points in proximity to the mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the first wireless access point transmits information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein the information is dependent upon past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

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43. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:
a plurality of information providers operable to be coupled to a network, wherein at least one information provider is operable to receive identification information indicating a user of a wireless mobile unit;

wherein the at least one information provider provides information through the network to the wireless mobile unit in response to receiving the identification information indicating the user of the wireless mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the wireless mobile unit receives the information in a wireless fashion.

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44. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 43, wherein the information is further dependent upon one or more of requirements, preferences, and habits of the user.

45. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 43, wherein the past transactions include past commercial activities of the user.
